

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of generating a proof, comprising the steps of:

converting image data D including image data K corresponding to black, to be processed by a first device, into image data D' including image data K' corresponding to black, to be processed by a second device, according to a conversion table;

generating ~~[[a]]~~ the conversion table for ~~converging~~ converting said image data D into said image data D' while saving an area percentage of an image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, at said image data K = 0 % or 100 %; and

converting said image data D into said image data D' with said conversion table for thereby generating a proof represented by area gradations of an image generated by said first device, with said second device.
2. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein said conversion table comprises a first conversion table for ~~converging~~ converting said image data K into said image data K', and a second conversion table, generated for each said image data K', for converting said image data D except said image data K into said image data D' except said image data K', further comprising the steps of:

determining said image data K' while saving the area percentage of the image at said image data K = 0 % or 100 % from said image data K according to said first conversion table;

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selecting said second conversion table based on said image data K'; and
determining said image data D' from said image data D according to the selected second conversion table.

3. (original): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, in a range except said image data K = 0 % or 100 % at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

4. (original): A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:
establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, in a range except said image data K = 0 % or 100 % at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

5. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said conversion table has a ratio set for saving an area percentage and density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, according to a predetermined internal ratio.

6. (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein said conversion table has a ratio set for saving an area percentage and density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, according to a predetermined internal ratio.

7. (currently amended): An apparatus for generating a proof, comprising:
means for converting image data D including image data K corresponding to black, to be processed by a first device, into image data D' including image data K' corresponding to black, to be processed by a second device, according to a conversion table;

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a conversion table for ~~converting~~ converting said image data D into said image data D' while saving an area percentage of an image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, at said image data K = 0 % or 100 %; and

means for converting said image data D into said image data D' with said conversion table for thereby generating a proof represented by area gradations of an image generated by said first device, with said second device.

8. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said conversion table comprises a first conversion table for ~~converting~~ converting said image data K into said image data K', and a second conversion table, generated for each said image data K', for converting said image data D except said image data K into said image data D' except said image data K', further comprising:

means for determining said image data K' while saving the area percentage of the image at said image data K = 0 % or 100 % from said image data K according to said first conversion table;

means for selecting said second conversion table based on said image data K'; and

means for determining said image data D' from said image data D according to the selected second conversion table.

9. (original): An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, in a range except said image data K = 0 % or 100 % at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

10. (original): An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

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means for establishing said conversion table so as to save a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device, in a range except said image data K = 0 % or 100 % at which the area percentage of the image is saved.

11. (original): An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an area percentage saving conversion table for saving the area percentage of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;

a density saving conversion table for saving a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K;

internal ratio setting means for setting an internal ratio between said area percentage and said density; and

table combining means for combining said area percentage saving conversion table and said density saving conversion table to produce said conversion table according to the internal ratio set by said internal ratio setting means.

12. (original): An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

an area percentage saving conversion table for saving the area percentage of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;

a density saving conversion table for saving a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K;

internal ratio setting means for setting an internal ratio between said area percentage and said density; and

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table combining means for combining said area percentage saving conversion table and said density saving conversion table to produce said conversion table according to the internal ratio set by said internal ratio setting means.

13. (currently amended): An apparatus for generating a proof, comprising:

means for converting image data D including image data K corresponding to black, to be processed by a first device, into image data D' including image data K' corresponding to black, to be processed by a second device, according to a conversion table;

a first conversion table for saving an area percentage of an image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;

a second conversion table for saving a density of the image of black produced from only said image data K by said first device;

a third conversion table for saving the area percentage of the image of black produced from only said image data K at said image data K = 0 % ~~and~~ or 100 %, and saving the density of the image of black produced from only said image data K in a range except the image data K = 0 % ~~and~~ or 100 %;

table selecting means for selecting one of said first conversion table, said second conversion table, and said third conversion table; and

means for converting said image data D into said image data D' with the conversion table selected by said table selecting means for thereby generating a proof represented by area gradations of an image generated by said first device, with said second device.

14. (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the image data K is processed independently of the non-black data to obtain image data K'.